



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017/18**

**Agenda Item No. 6**

**26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR,  
COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING  
BOARD ANNUAL REPORT  
2016/17**

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to share with Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee the Annual Report for 2016/17 for the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board (Children, Adults and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)).

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 Consider the content of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Annual Report for 2016/17

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards for adults and children have a statutory responsibility to publish Annual Reports on 31st July each year, setting out how they have exercised their functions in the preceding financial year.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Safeguarding involves both the protection of children and adults at risk from abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and preventing them from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm.
- 4.2 The Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adults Board and the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board are the multi-agency partnerships that have responsibility for safeguarding children and adults at risk in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil.



- 4.3 The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) sits within the structure of the Boards to enhance safeguarding practice, with agencies working together in one place to receive all safeguarding referrals and share relevant agency information to make collaborative decisions.
- 4.4 In 2016/17 the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safeguarding Children Board, in conjunction with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, have continued to collaborate to safeguard people of all ages. This has resulted in the creation of a joint regional multi-agency Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board and the production of the first Cwm Taf Safeguarding Annual Report for all ages.

## 5. ANNUAL REPORTS 2016/17

- 5.1 The purpose of the Annual Report is twofold; it is a tool of accountability and a tool for evaluation. Accountability has three components:

- accountability to the public;
- accountability to the statutory partner agencies of the Board; and
- accountability to the inspectorate bodies.

- 5.2 The required content of the Report is set out in the statutory guidance under Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. A summary of some of the key achievements included in the report is provided below:

### 5.3 Safeguarding Adults

- Expanded the scope of the existing Protocol for the Immediate Response to Critical Incidents Protocol to include critical incidents involving adults at risk.
- There were 3551 safeguarding reports received for RCT in 2016/17, of which 581 proceeded to an enquiry. The risk was reduced or removed at case closure for 97.3% of these enquiries.
- Managing Adult Large Scale Safeguarding Investigations protocol developed which enhances multi-agency communication, co-ordination and ensures availability of appropriate resources when large scale abuse is suspected.
- Ten individual case audits were completed during the year, in addition to 2 thematic audits on repeat referrals and cases in an NHS setting.
- Supported the completion of one Domestic Homicide Review, commissioned by the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership, which is due to be published in 2017.

***Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards*** - 514 DoLS assessments and re-assessments were completed by the Cwm Taf Supervisory Bodies, i.e.

RCTCBC, MTCBC and the Cwm Taf UHB. This was an increase from the previous year's figures (480 total assessments and re-assessments). However, the number of new requests continue to rise, from 1,448 in 2015/16 to 1,786 in 2016/17 and therefore the waiting lists for assessments are still high. This has been recognised as a risk that is being monitored by the Board.

**Adult Reviews** - 7 new cases considered, which is a 75% increase compared to 2015/16. This is likely to be due to the strengthened governance arrangements, including clearer criteria for referrals.

Two Adult Practice Reviews (APR) commenced and another one continued from the previous year.

#### 5.4 Safeguarding Children

- The Immediate Response to Critical Incidents Protocol was used once during the year to address the risks associated with 5 individuals who were placing themselves in danger through their joint behaviour. A multi-agency approach was put in place to deal with these issues which resulted in positive outcomes for all those involved.
- The priorities for tackling neglect in for 2016/17 have focussed on improving the usage of the Assessment Tool for Neglect amongst practitioners.
- During 2016/17 the number of children on the Child Protection Register decreased by 9% for Rhondda Cynon Taff.
- Development of a Protocol for Responding to Challenging Cases for children on the Child Protection Register which provides practitioners with guidance on the process to be followed in cases where a Care and Support Plan is not reducing the risk.
- Implemented an extensive quality assurance and audit programme which has generated learning that has been shared with practitioners.

**Child Sexual Exploitation** - The continued implementation of the regional CSE Action Plan has been fully supported by the Board CSE Champion and a CSE Consultant Social Worker, seconded to work with the Board by Barnardos. A CSE needs assessment and an audit of CSE cases was carried out which enabled the Board to share learning and resulted in the implementation of CSE Strategy Meetings and Multi-Agency CSE (MACSE) meetings to share intelligence.

**Child Practice Reviews** - 17 cases were considered; including all unexpected deaths in children, but none met the criteria for a Child Practice Review. Two Adult Practice Reviews commenced in 2016 and both established a joint child/adult approach to learning due to the age of the individuals. One Child Practice Review, carried out in 2015 was

published by the Board in 2016/17 and one Multi-Agency Practitioner Forum was held to consider the learning in relation to one case that did not meet the criteria for a CPR.

## 5.5 MASH

- Governance arrangements strengthened to oversee the ongoing development and improvement of the MASH.
- A comprehensive accommodation review carried out with alteration works subsequently in place to expand and improve MASH accommodation by Autumn 2017
- Completed a multi-agency review of MASH processes and a thresholding review/screening pilot of children's referrals into MASH. This has led to the proposal for a Cwm Taf co-ordinated thresholding approach to be developed in 2017/18
- The total numbers of referrals/contacts that were triaged by the MASH for 2016/2017 were 24,644. 2,511 met the threshold for child protection, adult protection or high risk domestic abuse, an increase of 12% compared to the previous year.
- There has been a reduction in repeat referrals by 3.59% for Child Protection in RCT during the second year of MASH, meeting the MASH objective to reduce repeat referrals.
- The percentage of repeat reports for Adult Safeguarding in RCT CBC has increased by just over 5% compared to 2015/16 (from 38% to 43.7%).

## 5.6 Joint Safeguarding Functions

- A programme of engagement, participation and communication activities was delivered during the year, including Safeguarding Week, November 2016, which involved over 40 agencies delivering over 70 events across Cwm Taf.
- Over 2,000 people received safeguarding training via the Cwm Taf Social Care Workforce Development Partnership.
- Collaboration activities took place with a range of other agencies, partnerships and Boards.

## 6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full assessment is not required at this time.

## 7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Annual Report has been approved by the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board and shared with the Welsh Government, the National



Independent Safeguarding Board and the five other Regional Safeguarding Boards.

- 7.2 A copy of the report has been published on the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards website [www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org](http://www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org)

## 8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 8.1 None.

## 9. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 sets out the responsibilities and the functions of the Regional Safeguarding Boards.

## 10. **LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP**

- 10.1 At a strategic level, this approach to safeguarding supports the delivery of the Council's three priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan,

1. **People – Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone**
2. **Place – Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live**
3. **Economy – Building a strong economy**

It also supports the work the Council undertakes in partnership to meet the Vision of the Council and its partners in the Single Integrated Plan i.e.

### **People in Rhondda Cynon Taf are safe, healthy and prosperous**

At an All Wales level, keeping people safe contributes to the Wellbeing goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act to **improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales**. The Safeguarding Board connects with the Public Service Board by reporting on safeguarding activity and supports the Council's priority to ensure that Children and Adults at risk are protected from harm.

## 11. **CONCLUSION**

- 11.1 The Annual Report for 2016/17 for the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board (Children, Adults and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) highlights the work that the Board undertook during 2016/17 toward our overall aim, which is to ensure that the people of Cwm Taf are safeguarded from abuse, neglect or other forms of harm. The report highlights that this can only be achieved through our strong partnership, where all Board agencies work together proactively and productively.







**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S  
SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER,  
COUNCILLOR HOPKINS**

**CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

**Background Papers:**

Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

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